GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4190
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
SEEDS PREPARED FROM RADIO ACTIVITY
VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given clearance to the process of patenting the seeds prepared from radio activity;

(b) if so, the names of the seeds patented under it;

(c) whether any precautions have been observed to counter the ill-effect of radio activity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c)&(d): Radiation is used mainly to induce variability in a crop variety. Only in the initial stage are the seeds exposed to a small dose of gamma radiation. There is no induced radioactivity in the seeds. The treated seeds are grown for several generations without being subjected to radiation treatment. When a variety is released for commercial cultivation, no ill effects are expected or observed. These seeds/plants do not contain any radioactivity.